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Item 16

Article 1

1. An archipelagic State is a State constituted wholly or mainly of one or more archipelagos.

2. For the purpose of these articles, an archipelago is a group of islands, including parts of islands, and other natural features which are so closely interrelated that the component islands and other natural features form an intrinsic geographical, economic and political entity or which historically have been regarded as such.

Article 2

1. In drawing the baselines from which the extent of the territorial sea, economic zone and other special jurisdictions are to be measured, an archipelagic State may employ the method of straight baselines joining the outermost points of the outermost islands and drying reefs or low-tide elevations of the archipelago or may employ as a baseline any non-navigable continuous reefs or shoals lying between such points.

2. If the drawing of such baselines encloses a part of the sea traditionally used by an immediate and adjacent neighbouring State for direct communication from one part of its territory to another part, such communication shall continue to be respected.

Article 3

1. The waters enclosed by the baselines, hereinafter referred to as archipelagic waters, regardless of their depth or distance from the coast, belong to and are subject to the sovereignty of the archipelagic State to which they appertain.

2. The sovereignty and rights of the archipelagic State extend to the air space over its archipelagic waters, as well as to the water column, the sea-bed and subsoil thereof, and to all the resources contained therein.